

JAMES E. BICKFORD  
SECRETARY



PAUL E. PATTON  
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CABINET  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
FRANKFORT KENTUCKY 40601  
TELEPHONE: (502) 564-3350

June 13, 2002

Ms. Aloma Dew, Chair  
Environmental Quality Commission  
14 Reilly Road  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1132

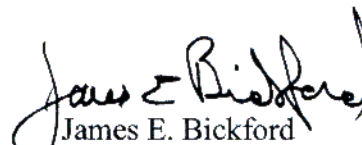
Dear Ms. Dew:

Thank you for your recent correspondence to Governor Patton conveying an EQC resolution expressing the Commission's concern about two proposals to lease federal coal reserves in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Governor Patton and I appreciate your concern, and by copy of this letter, I am forwarding a copy of your resolution to the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in Lexington so that they will be advised of your interest in this matter.

I have been informed that OSM, the Bureau of Land Management and the U. S. Forest Service handle these coal lease proposals very cautiously. They also thoroughly consider and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with any subsequent mining activity. These federal agencies are responsible for determining if there will be a need for further environmental study after conducting the initial Environmental Assessment. We feel, given the heightened level of interest and concern, that these agencies will proceed with extra care on these particular lease proposals. Should it be determined that a more extensive Environmental Impact Statement is needed, we anticipate that a meticulous study will then be conducted. Please be assured that should any underground activity ever occur, we would closely monitor these sites to insure compliance with all applicable state laws and regulations.

Again, thank you for your letter. Please let me know if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
James E. Bickford  
Secretary

cc: Governor Patton  
Carl E. Campbell, Commissioner  
Bill Kovacic, Field Office Director



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